



## Convergence(s) for New Education: Ambitions and outlook for 2023/2024

This document, addressed to organizations that have expressed their interest in joining the dynamics of **Convergence(s)** for New Education, was drawn up during the review meeting of the current COPIL Biennale 2022. It comprises two parts : - Elements of perspectives for the 2024 Biennial . The preparation of the Biennial will begin in 2023 in order to be able to mobilize the "local" groups of **Convergence(s)** in this preparation phase.

- Clarification of the operating methods and work prospects of **Convergence(s)**.

The different elements contained in this document are perspectives, projects. Their success largely depends on the commitments and mobilizations of everyone.

## THE 2024 BIENNIAL

**Preamble:** the International Biennial of New Education is an integral part of the political project of **Convergence(s)** for New Education and becomes the highlight event, the big meeting of the member organisations.

We envision a Biennial that would revolve around 4 axes:

1. A Biennial that allows better dissemination of the ideas and practices of New Education in order to get out of one's self. For this we propose to identify 3 or 4 major issues, put to work from 2023 within the member organizations of Convergences so that the exchanges during the Biennial are based on the works allowing in fine the production of an external communication ( at the end of the Biennial). We mention for example:
  - i. New education and socially marked school failure
  - ii. Popular education, global education
  - iii. Privatization, commodification
  - iv. New Education's responses to the ecological challenge
2. A debate, which could also begin in 2023 between the organizations of the local **Convergence(s)**, which makes it possible to identify how far the consensus between movements goes, on what points there are disagreements and/or tensions, what are our "indignations"?
3. A reinforcement of the international dimension by proposing exchanges to better understand how debates are built, tensions depending on the country: Montessori, Freinet, Korczak, ... are not apprehended in the same way depending on whether you are in Italy, in France, in Poland, in Senegal, in Quebec, etc
4. The move from "testimonial workshops" to "meetings with" (provisional *term*) in order to clarify what is presented while broadening the spectrum of possibilities. It will also be a question of hearing the request of participants wishing to have closer relations with researchers: educational movements and researchers: getting to know each other better and working together. For this we are considering 4 categories of "meetings with": presentation of practices – exchange of practices – experimentation of practices – presentation of various research, emphasizing "how the results of research are constructed".

We have also reaffirmed that the Manifesto is, must be, a living element. Beyond the appropriation work that can be undertaken here or there, writing work can also be initiated to complete, enrich, give concrete examples of practice... The Biennale could then become the one of these places.

From an organizational point of view: •

The Biennial could be spread over 4 days instead of 3. It will not be a question of adding content but of aerating the grid to answer the question of "time for oneself ". This hypothesis will have to be economically viable.

- Facilitators will be invited the day before to have collective preparation time in addition to those that may have taken place remotely during the year. There will no longer be any overlapping of responsibilities.
- The reference groups and the "carte blanche" dimension allowing the emergence of proposals from the participants will be maintained.
- The "meetings with" will be presented on the site and included in the document given to participants at

home. Registration will be done on site by posting.

### **Eight decisions on the fringes of previous reflections**

1. We reiterate the importance of the work to be done on the glossary, the dictionary.
2. We accept the proposal of Catherine HURTIG (ICEM) relating to a work of reflection/training around the animation of the debates, the methods of setting in debate.
3. A map of the presence of member organizations (by country, by region, etc.) will be produced. There FICEMEA, which has already carried out work of this type, is coordinating this file.
4. The feedback from the debates written by the animation teams, supplemented by an introduction by the COPIL debate group, is centralized on a CLOUD: <https://cloud.cemea.org/index.php/s/W4Q8BsjT3YcaYPw>
5. A "report" info letter will be published during the month of January and sent **on February 10** to all participants: quantified report, social network and site statistics, Biennale grid, size historical reminder, link to the website, review of cultural activities, outlook for 2024.
6. The next 2024 Biennale will take place in France (Nantes, Lille, etc.), that of 2026 in Romania or outside Europe (Tunisia). We decide to stabilize this alternation: 2028 in France, 2030 elsewhere....
7. The work on the River will be extended: welcome on the River the organizations that join [Convergence\(s\)](#). The current presentation will be lightened to keep a readable document that can be used in external relations.
8. The Website <https://convergences-educnouv.org/> will be renovated **before the summer of 2023**.

# Convergence(s) for New Education

## Prior

We maintain the principle of a non-formal international dynamic, that of an affinity collective which is not structured into an association, federation, etc. The members of [Convergence\(s\)](#) for New Education share the same reference values (New Education, active education), the issues mentioned in the Manifesto and the global political project of Convergences (see below). This constitutes the common base, non-negotiable, the acceptance of which is the prerequisite for any application for membership.

## Functioning

An Animation Collective has been set up which brings together all the members of [Convergence\(s\)](#) twice a year. The first meeting of this Animation Collective will take place in March 2023. This collective welcomes one or two members per organization and works mainly remotely to encourage the participation of as many people as possible (international dimension). It decides on the basis of consensus but can proceed by vote if necessary (majority of 2/3 present). For "day-to-day" management, we maintain a Steering Committee comprising the founding members and two voluntary, interested organisations. In addition, a code of ethics for communication will be established. We are testing this operation until the next Biennale (2024). A review will be carried out at the end of the Biennale to consider possible modifications, developments, etc.

## Belong to [Convergence\(s\)](#)

**Entry** Based on the common base, an organization can declare its wish to join [Convergence\(s\)](#). A small delegation (2 or 3 people) from the Collectif d'Animation de [Convergence\(s\)](#) then goes to meet the organization: get to know the organization better (values, project, practices), understand the "why to join [Convergence\(s\)](#) ", consider the methods and objects on which the organization plans to get involved, ensure that you understand what [Convergence\(s\)](#) is, the issues involved and the responsibilities that this entails.

It is then up to the Collectif d'Animation to formalize the entry of the organization into the dynamics of [Convergence\(s\)](#). The decision will be taken on the sole basis of consensus (unanimity).

**Leaving** An organization can leave [Convergence\(s\)](#) at any time. Furthermore, in the event of disagreement or recurring difficulties, the Animation Collective may also decide to meet (small delegation of 2 or 3 people) with an organization in order to consider its exit from [Convergence\(s\)](#). The final decision will be taken by the Animation Collective on the basis of consensus or a majority vote of the 2/3 present.

Special case of the 18 organizations that entered from Calais. We propose a meeting (video) between the current COPIL (2 members) and representatives of the organization to present the project described below: get to know each other better, see what work commitments, etc. These meetings will be organized in the first quarter of 2023.

## Economy

The only economic stakes today are linked to the Biennials. [Convergence\(s\)](#) has no budget and there is no paid membership to enter [Convergence\(s\)](#). Belonging to [Convergence\(s\)](#), however, presupposes taking joint responsibility for the budgetary arrangements for the Biennials. Participation, up to the means of each, is requested (currently from 0 to 1500€ depending on the members, to which must be added assistance in human or material resources such as the provision of rooms for the copil, etc.) It made it possible to have a balanced result for the Biennials of Brussels. Being in [Convergence\(s\)](#) therefore implies accepting the principle of these adapted contributions and assuming, with all the members, the savings generated by the setting up of the Biennials (management of a surplus, management of a deficit). In addition, it will be up to the Collectif d'Animation to carry out a search for funding for [Convergence\(s\)](#) and/or for the Biennale.

We then worked from the document containing the conclusions of debate n°20, presented by Enrico BOTTERO and Olivia GAULT at the conclusion of the Biennale.

### 1) Constructing a desirable

**narrative** Our pedagogies are not known, not recognized. We need to build the means for this (re)knowledge. We must assert a political voice, in our respective countries, in Europe and in the world, and define new methods of coordinating this voice. • Develop our (in the sense of **Convergence(s)** for New Education ) political project, a project which affirms our values, our references, which expresses our ambitions, which situates our relations with the institutions.

Beyond the project, we must work on the conditions for its implementation, define our priorities and develop strategic paths.

- 1) If the Manifesto constitutes a "non-negotiable" common base, it will be placed at the heart of a more global document developed from the opening remarks of the 2022 Biennial and the intervention of Philippe MEIRIEU at the closing of the 2017 Biennials and 2022. This set will constitute the basis of the political project of Convergences situating the issues, values and concrete proposals. This political project will be submitted for validation by the Collectif d'Animation de Convergences during its **March 2023** session. This document may be supplemented by issues and proposals specific to each country.
- 2) It will be up to each local Convergences (at the level of a region, a country, Europe, etc.) to bring this project to life by setting up meetings with institutions to present Convergences and indicate what we are able to do. It will be necessary to identify and socialize these initiatives.
- 3) Authorize (encourage...) the use of the Convergences logo to "label" initiatives taken by Convergences members. The brand usage charter specifies the conditions of use of the logo. It is one of the documents given to each member of **Convergence(s)**.
- 4) A page dedicated to testimonials of practices will be created on the future Convergences site.

- A strong project which speaks of the fight against fascism and all forms of authoritarianism or totalitarianism, of solidarity, peace, voluntary commitment and which affirms the international dimension of these struggles.
- Among the issues identified is that of digital commons. It was identified when we were talking about the circulation of information (Zourit) but also as one of the major political issues today when we were talking about citizenship, the power to act and digital platforms.

Several organizations are working on this topic. There are theoretical skills but also proven practices. We are initiating an international working group (**January 2023**) with the following mission: 1) To build a political discourse from the positions already expressed by place, which considers the international dimension (different realities).  
2) To bring together the practices already implemented on a daily basis (like Zourit) to demonstrate "the possibilities".  
**First communication (April 2023)**  
3) To open up reflections beyond the member organizations of Convergences by creating formalized links with organizations in the "free world".

### 2) We are campaigning for a global approach to education that "fights against barbarism".

The challenge is great to work better on the complementarities between educational times: from the place of the family through school, leisure, culture without forgetting the social dimension, because we are convinced that all these

time, these spaces, contribute to the education of the subject. They are led by actors with specific and complementary professionalities. • **Convergence(s)** must therefore strengthen interprofessionalism, taking into account the fields and actors of the world of culture, leisure, social intervention, school while working to strengthen the links between professional researchers and pedagogues.

- 1) Identify and list the initiatives of local Convergence groups on this subject.
- 2) The **2024 Biennale** will have a “New Education, global education” dimension to promote our implications in the field of leisure, cultural practices, social work, etc.

- For this, it is necessary to maintain efforts to create a common culture that considers all the spaces of Education, all the actors who act within these spaces: common training for all the movements involved in **Convergence(s)**, international training (it is even proposed the creation of an international entity to provide training) are among the avenues to be explored. These training actions must be aimed at teachers, facilitators, and more generally, Educators from all professional backgrounds.

- 1) To respond to the need to strengthen the connection between educational movements and research, to create spaces for mutual understanding allowing us to better understand specific issues and identify common issues, to develop new forms of collaboration, we let's start working with researchers. A first step will be to identify with whom to work, to meet them in order to consider holding a study day. **2024**.

### 3) Converge without confining, agree to diverge.... All united but all different!

We have taken a significant step in this Biennale, but the road is long and it is necessary to continue to get to know each other better. Identify the commonalities, but also the differences, the knots by inspiring each other in our ways of doing things. • Organize exchanges between us, create links between movements from different countries, and for this think about mailing lists, write in the reviews of others, open all our reviews to dialogues between activists from different movements .

- 1) Use the email addresses of the participants to send them a news letter twice a year. The first will be based on the results of the Biennale 2022 **January/February 2023**. The second will be fed by the political project and the first contributions of the group on "digital commons". **July 2023** 2) Organize a “convergence dialogue” within the year in our respective journals. A group met during the Biennale to structure these collaborations.
- 3) Structure a mobility project (ERASMUS) in **September/October 2023**. A group of 20 people, with responsibilities within their organization, from member organizations for a mobility project in Romania to work on Active education (the theme must be drawn up according to the ERASMUS criteria) but also to prepare the future Biennale.

- Organize training for the militants of our movements: on New Education, on the way to build and lead relationships with institutions....

- 1) **Support the 2024 Biennial** with a training session on “New Education”. Taking place over 4 or 5 days, this training will welcome activists from organizations

Convergence members. It will mainly be aimed at activists who are discovering New Education (N1) or who, having basic knowledge, would like to deepen their skills (N2).

#### 4) **Convergence(s)** for New Education is everyone's business, everywhere, from local to the International.

Far from a logic of apparatus, **Convergence(s)** must concern each and everyone in their territory, in their daily life. The place of young people must be reflected in it, as well as the fact that **Convergence(s)** can exist in ALL territories, without neglecting isolated territories.

- It is necessary to create the conditions for the existence of **Convergence(s)** in the greatest number of possible territories: at the national level but above all at the local, micro-local level of each of our countries.

- 1) Each member organization of **Convergence(s)** identifies a correspondent at the local level, at the national level (table with name, emails, etc.). A summary table will then make it possible to designate a coordinator in charge of creating the first contacts in order to stimulate the first meetings. **January 2023.**
- 2) It will be up to the **Convergence(s)** Animation Collective to identify and support each local **Convergence** in the chosen initiatives, to highlight the experiences and practices on the site (dedicated section) as well as in the news letters. This will be possible once the website has been redesigned. **Summer 2023**
- 3) It is up to each organization to have the "reflex" of opening up to members of **Convergences** organisations, whenever possible, the events (congresses, conferences, training sessions, etc.) that it organizes.

We are engaged in a welcoming process because **Convergence(s)** is an open dynamic that should inspire as many people as possible. However, we have identified two major topics:

- How open? With what strategies? (Co-optation...) and what guarantees? (Committee of guarantors...)

See first part of the document

- 1) Make each member of **Convergences** feel empowered to invite others organizations to join **Convergences** (logic of cooptation).
- 2) Only structured organizations can belong to **Convergences** .

- What governance arrangements for **Convergence(s)**?

See first part of the document Within each member organization, a referent for **Convergences** is identified. He is the recipient of the information, ensures the relay of this information in his organization, it is he who is potentially a member of the Animation Collective.

## Workplan

### JANUARY

- Elaboration of the first News Letter • Mail sent to the 18 member organizations to initiate the meetings. • Drafting of a first version of the political project. • Establishment of a working group for the redesign of the INTERNET site. • Establishment of the "digital" group. Creation of a ZOURIT **Convergence(s)**. • Establishment of the group on "debates"

## FEBRUARY

- 10/02 Distribution of the News Letter •

Choice of venue for the 2024 Biennale and definition of the 4 issues that we want to discuss in order to stimulate work in the local Convergences .

- Global mapping of the presence of Convergences members. Waypoint.
- Evolution of the River
- Training project: first hypotheses.
- Update on the evolution of the website.

## MARCH

- First Animation Collective: the political project, possible formalization of new entries in Convergences, presentation of the groups at work (Digital, "debates", ERASMUS project), the training project, the future site.

- ERASMUS mobility project: final dates, first drafts of the composition of the group of 20 people max.

### For this to work, each organization must:

- Identify one or two " [Convergence\(s\)](#) " referent(s). These will be the recipients of the emails, charge to them to relay information within their organization, their network.
- Identify who will participate in the meetings of the Animation Collective (twice a year remotely). One or two people max. These people may or may not be referents.

The names and email addresses of the referents and participants in the Animation Collective should be sent to

[jean.luc.cazaillon@cemea.asso.fr](mailto:jean.luc.cazaillon@cemea.asso.fr)

**Already work proposals:** • The "digital"

group is being set up. Contact: **Walid SFEIR** [wallid@yahoo.com](mailto:wallid@yahoo.com) • The working group on moderating debates is being set up. Contact: **Catherine HURTIG – DELATTRE** [catherine.hurtig-delattre@icem-freinet.org](mailto:catherine.hurtig-delattre@icem-freinet.org)

More generally, for all questions, suggestions and reactions relating to this document, a single contact: [jean.luc.cazaillon@cemea.asso.fr](mailto:jean.luc.cazaillon@cemea.asso.fr)